

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00

EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 OMB-01 OPR-02 EUR-25

AF-10 SY-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OC-06 MC-02 DRC-01

/206 W

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P R 151630Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4753

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12143

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PMIL, PINS, XF, LE

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON - SITREP NO. 4

REF: BEIRUT 12035

BEGIN SUMMARY: LEBANON REMAINS RELATIVELY CALM ALTHOUGH
THERE HAS BEEN SOME ISRAELI HARASSMENT FIRE IN SOUTH AND SOME
ANTI-AMERICAN AGITATION IN BEIRUT. GOL DOING WHAT IT CAN TO
HELP US BUT AMERICAN COMMUNITY BECOMING NERVOUS. END SUMMARY.

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1. EXHORTATIONS TO ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIVITY INCREASING AS OF AFTERN-

NOON OCT 15 ALTHOUGH WE UNAWARE OF ANY ACUTAL ANTI-AMERICAN ACTS. AMONG MANIFESTATIONS OF THIS ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN A PRESS STATEMENT BY LONG-TIME RADICAL BEIRUT AGITATOR AND FORMER NASSER AGENT IBRAHIM KLEILAT CALLING FOR "FEROCIOUS LIQUIDATION OF ALL AMERICAN INTERESTS, INCLUDING AGENTS AND CITIZENS"; B) RALLY BY BEIRUT SUNNI MOSLEM LEADERS ON OCT 14 AT WHICH GRAND MUFTI HASSAN KHALED WARNED USG OF "CONSEQUENCES OF ITS CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL"; C) RESUMPTION OF VIRULENT ANTI-AMERICAN AGITATION OVER LOUDSPEAKER BY RADICAL FORMER NASSER ELEMENTS WHO INHABIT NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR EMBASSY (INCLUDING EXHORTATIONS TO STRIKE "AMERICAN INTERESTS" BUT WITHOUT CALL FOR SPECIFIC ACTION). PRESS REACTION REPORTED SEPTEL IS NOT TOO SEVERE BUT ACRIMONY, ALONG WITH POPULAR AGITATION, WILL CERTAINLY INCREASE ONCE NEWS REPORTS OF LARGE-SCALE AMERICAN AIRLIFT BECOME WIDESPREAD.

2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION WITH DIRECTORS GENERAL OF INFORMATION AND SURETE OVER WEEKEND AND AGAIN OCT 15. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT GOL WORKING HARD HELP CALM ATMOSPHERE. HOWEVER, ALL GOL OFFICIALS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN INCLUDING THOSE IN FONOFF EXPRESS HOPE USG CAN FIND MEANS BRINGING ABOUT RAPID END TO FIGHTING AND SOME AGREEMENT ON BASIS FOR REACHING SETTLEMENT. THEY FEAR THAT SHOULD FIGHTING CONTINUE AND USG AND USSR BE FURTHER DRAWN IN, SITUATION IN LEBANON COULD BECOME BAD BOTH FOR GOL AND FOR AMERICAN INTERESTS. WE HAVE NATURALLY EXPLAINED TO GOL OFFICIALS USG DOING ITS BEST, DRAWING PARTICULARLY ON SECRETARY'S OCT 12 PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. AS RESULT OF ARTICLES IN PRESS AND UNHELPFUL, EXAGGERATED BBC REPORT ON GROWING ANTI-AMERICANISM, IN LEBANON, EMBASSY HAD LARGE NUMBER CALLS TODAY FROM NERVOUS AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE URGING THEM TO REMAIN CALM, AND POINT TO ABSENCE OF ANY KNOWN HARASSMENT. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE INTENSIFIED PREPARATORY WORK FOR MOVING FROM E AND E STANDFAST TO NEXT PHASE SHOULD THAT BECOME NECESSARY.

4. AS REPORTED IN DAO SITREP, FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN SOUTH LEBANON (APPARENTLY MOSTLY INFILTRATION OF ATTEMPTED INFILTRATION RATHER THAN ROCKET FIRING) HAS CAUSED IDG TO SHELL AND BOMB SOME POINTS ALONG

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SOUTHERN BORDER AND IN ARKUB, DAMAGING SEVERAL HOUSES AND UN OP, AND WOUNDING SOME LEBANESE CIVILIANS.

5. NUMEROUS OVERFLIGHTS OF COMBATANT AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING DOG-FIGHTS, VISIBLE FROM BEIRUT BECOMING COMMONPLACE. SEVERAL PLANES HAVE CRASHED IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF CAPITAL, STARTING FIRES BUT NO REPORTED CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

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